



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING
PO Box 9020 • Olympia, Washington 98507-9020

July 2, 2007

TO: Washington Building Officials
Other Interested Parties

FROM: Washington Board for Architects

SUBJECT: **Application and Interpretation of Licensing Exemptions**
RCW 18.08.410 (5)(6)

The Washington Board for Architects recognizes the existing confusion and varied interpretations of RCW 18.08.410, particularly with regard to sections (5) and (6), the application of the 4000 square foot limitation. The following policy was developed in the spirit of service to building officials, licensed Architects, those unlicensed individuals practicing under the exemptions, and the public they all serve. It is provided in an effort to bring some clarity to this issue. It is not intended to supplant the local authority of building officials to enforce building codes and local ordinance.

The Board adopted the following policy at its June 1, 2007 meeting:

Policy 410-1

The Board's interpretation of RCW 18.08.410 (5) and (6) is as follows:

Persons not licensed as architects can design, build, and alter:

- *Residential buildings regardless of the size of the building so long as it does not contain more than four dwelling units*
- *Residential buildings of more than four dwelling units, but only if the entire completed building is less than 4,000 square feet*
- *Farm buildings of any size*
- *Buildings such as garages, sheds, barns or shelters for animals and machinery. There is no size limit on garages, sheds, barns or similar buildings; however, the buildings must be intended to be used in connection with or auxiliary to farm buildings, or in connection with or auxiliary to residential buildings of four dwelling units or less*
- *Non-residential buildings not exceeding 4,000 square feet*